

## News from U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC)

Assistant to the Democratic Leader

Ranking Member, Committee on the Budget

US House of Representatives – Washington, DC

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### **Spratt Secures \$31 Million for S.C. in Defense Bill**

WASHINGTON – U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC) announced today that the House has authorized \$31 million in projects he requested for South Carolina businesses and universities in the 2005 defense bill it passed on May 20.

“With all of the focus on our military operations overseas, it is easy to lose sight of the economic impact our defense dollars have back home,” Spratt said. “This year, I submitted requests to the Armed Services Committee for South Carolina projects that I knew could make a difference to our military. I am pleased that our committee saw fit to authorize so many of these requests.”

Projects receiving authorized funding include:

- **\$13 million for Biopure Corporation in Sumter** – Biopure makes a blood substitute called Hemopure that has a shelf life of 36 months without refrigeration. Normal blood has a shelf life of only 42 days with refrigeration. There is currently no effective method of providing front-line resuscitative treatment for acute blood loss to soldiers on the battlefield and civilian trauma victims in the out-of-hospital settings. Hemopure can supply this need. Biopure expects to build its production facility in Sumter, subject to approval of its blood substitute by the Food and Drug Administration. The \$13 million earmark will be used by the military for testing of Hemopure, in the hope of moving the product toward approval by the Food and Drug Administration.

“An estimated 90 percent of all soldiers who die from battle injuries never make it to a field hospital,” said Spratt. “Most of these soldiers die from acute blood loss. Hemopure could save many of these lives. If approved by the FDA, Hemopure has great potential for the military.”

- **\$2 Million for Jameson Corporation in Clover** – Jameson makes stringable fluorescent tent lights that are substantially more durable than the incandescent lights currently used by the Marine Corps. The lights emit minimal radiation and heat, and are capable of being transported without a protective carrying case, greatly lowering the weight of the lighting system.

The Marine Corps included Jameson lights on their list of unfunded requirements this year.

“The Marine Corps recognized the military value of Jameson’s low heat, light weight, durable lights, and now Congress has done the same,” said Spratt.

- **\$4 million for CYTEC in Rock Hill** – CYTEC makes intermediate modulus carbon fiber, which is used to strengthen and insulate aircraft and missile bodies. Currently, only one company is certified by the Navy to provide this material. \$4 million will allow the Navy to certify CYTEC as a second domestic source.

“The Navy should have a second source for carbon fiber to protect against unforeseen conditions that might undercut the first source,” Spratt said.

- **\$9.7 million for FMTV Research – parts made in Rock Hill** – The Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles (FMTV) includes 2.5 and 5-ton trucks that serve as the backbone for combat support and combat service at every level in the Army. The brakes for these trucks are built by Arvin Meritor in Rock Hill; Caterpillar in Greenville makes the engines; and Michelin, which has seven manufacturing facilities in South Carolina, makes the tires. Research and development on FMTV trucks has been unable to keep pace with new combat demands on these vehicles. \$9.7 million will be used to conduct research to improve armor on the vehicles, increase payload capacity, and integrate the FMTV vehicle into the Army’s Future Combat System network.

“The FMTV may not be the most glamorous program the Army has,” said Spratt, “but it is a workhorse whose importance has been proven again by the Army’s current deployment. The FMTV will continue to be part of the Army of the future. With such long-term utility, there is an obvious benefit to improving these vehicles to allow them to operate more efficiently, quickly, and safely.”

- **\$2 million for Active Coatings Research at Clemson/York Tech** – The U.S. military uses coatings on materiel for anything from rust preventatives to stealth technologies. These coatings are inert, not reactive to the environment, and incapable of self-repair. As a result, they must be changed regularly at great expense. With this earmark, Clemson University, in cooperation with York Technical College and others, will design and develop a new kind of coating that can sense and adapt to the colors of the surrounding environment. The coating will also be stronger than existing options, and will protect vehicles against corrosion.

“The military spends more than \$4 billion annually for painting and de-painting,” said Spratt. “Environmental and health hazards are causing these costs to go even higher, and to increase equipment downtime and lessen readiness. Clemson’s Active Coatings research will allow us to save money

on vehicle maintenance while greatly improving safety for our troops. I am pleased a South Carolina team is out front on a project with such potential.”

- **\$1 million for Ballistic Shields research at the University of South Carolina (USC)** - Through the USC Ballistic Shields project, the Army will partner with experienced USC professors to examine the response of various materials currently in use by the military to ballistic threats. Examiners will explore the response of these materials at the nano, micro, and macro level, and then develop materials with improved ballistic responses based upon their findings. The research will improve force protection for buildings, vehicles, and individual soldiers.

“This research has the potential to greatly improve armor capabilities, and greatly reduce the risk of human injury and equipment destruction in a battlefield situation,” said Spratt.

“The House defense bill must still be reconciled with the Senate defense bill and we still need to vet these projects through the Appropriations Committee,” Spratt said. “We do not have the money in hand just yet. But authorization of these projects by the House is an essential first step, and I will do my best to maintain this funding as these projects move through Congress.”

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